

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:

a lower portion initially having a flattened condition, a sidewall, a lower end, and an area of excess material comprising a plurality of preformed creases or folds positioned in horizontal and diagonal orientation in the sidewall; and

an upper portion extending from the lower portion and detachable therefrom via a detaching element disposed within the tubular sleeve.

19. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the lower portion comprises a base portion sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

20. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the lower portion further comprises a skirt portion having a non-linear upper peripheral edge.

21. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 18 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

22. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the detaching element is selected from the group consisting of perforations, tear strips and zippers.

23. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the preformed creases or folds further comprise pleats, folds with a z-shaped cross section, or accordion-type folds.

24. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the lower end is open.

25. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the lower end is closed.

26. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 25 wherein the closed lower end has a gusset therein.

27. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 18 having a bonding material disposed thereon.

28. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 18 wherein the upper portion is adapted to support the tubular sleeve from a support assembly.

29. (Original) A tubular sleeve for containing a plant or for covering a pot having an outer peripheral surface, the tubular sleeve comprising:
a base portion having a lower end and a sidewall, the sidewall comprising
an area of excess material comprising a plurality of preformed
creases or folds positioned in horizontal and diagonal orientation;
a skirt portion extending from the base portion; and
an upper portion extending from the skirt portion and detachable
therefrom via a detaching element disposed within the tubular
sleeve.

30. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the base portion is further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

31. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 29 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymeric film, non-polymeric film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

32. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the detaching element is selected from the group consisting of perforations, tear strips and zippers.

33. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the preformed creases or folds further comprise pleats, folds with a z-shaped cross section, or accordion-type folds.

34. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the lower end is open.

35. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the lower end is closed.

36. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 35 wherein the closed lower end has a gusset therein.

37. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 29 having a bonding material disposed thereon.

38. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the detaching element has a non-linear pattern.

39. (Original) The tubular sleeve of claim 29 wherein the upper portion is adapted to support the tubular sleeve from a support assembly.